



# REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER  
OF HEALTH

OF THE

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF SHILDON

FOR THE YEAR  
1972



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# THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF SHILDON

1972

*Chairman of the Council:* Councillor H. FOX.

*Vice-Chairman:* Councillor W. L. CARNAN.

*Chairman of the Health Committee:* Councillor R. MOYLE

*Chairman of the Housing Committee:*  
Councillor W. EDWARDS, C.C.

## *Councillors:*

E. M. AMOS	J. FORSTER	W. NUNN
A. ASTON (Elected Sept. 72)	R. GOAD (deceased June, 1972)	F. PICKERING
Mrs. M. ASTON	R. HODGSON	B. STEPHENS
D. BEDDINGFIELD	Mrs. J. V. HOWARD	J. THOMPSON
T. BENNETT	W. JACKSON	Mrs. L. L. TROTTER, J.P.
P. DOUTHWAITE	K. NEWBY	

## *Public Health Officers of the Local Authority*

### *Medical Officer of Health:*

ELAINE M. OSBORNE, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.C.H., D.R.C.O.G.,  
M.F.C.M.

Also Medical Officer of Health to the Urban District Council of  
Bishop Auckland, the Rural District Council of Darlington and  
Principal Senior Medical Officer to Durham County Council.

### *Chief Public Health Inspector:*

K. ROBSON

### *Deputy Public Health Inspector:*

G. R. SEWELL

### *Pupil Public Health Inspector:*

A. HORNER

### *Clerical Assistant:*

S. THOMPSON

# **Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health**

**YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1972**

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Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you the Annual Report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for 1972.

The population again rose for the third consecutive year to 14,780.

The number of births rose by 19 giving a standardised rate of 15.4 compared with 14.8 for England and Wales. The illegitimate births rose to 8%, though they were still 1% below the national rate.

The number of deaths rose by 25 to 176 giving a standardised rate of 14.9 compared with 12.1 for England and Wales. 64 of these were aged 75 and over.

Stillbirths were down to 2, giving a rate of 9 compared with the national average of 12. Both were due to placental defects.

There were 3 deaths of infants in the first week of life, one on the first day and 2 on the second. All had respiratory trouble from birth. No other infant deaths occurred during the first year of life, giving an infantile mortality rate of 13 compared with 17 for England and Wales. There were no maternal deaths during the year.

The number of deaths from cancer of all parts of the body increased by one to 28. Cancer of the bronchus, I am pleased to say, decreased in men by 3 to 5 and there were no cases in women.

Deaths due to ischaemic heart disease increased by 1 to 51 (27 in men, 24 in women).

Deaths from pneumonia increased by 7 to 12, 10 of these being 65 years and over whilst deaths from bronchitis and emphysema increased by 3 to 11, 8 of these being 65 and over.

There were 3 accidental deaths, the same as last year, two of which were road accidents and one a woman of 71 who fell in her home. There were 3 suicides.



During the year 2 new cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, a decrease of 2 on last year.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the town during the year but I hope it will be coming next year.

The number of notifications of infectious disease decreased again from 72 to 49 mainly due to the absence of notifications of whooping cough and the fall of measles to 27.

Cases of scarlet fever were up to 19, mostly in the pre-school and infant school age groups. They were mild in nature and scattered throughout the district.

As usual, the full range of prophylaxis was available to children and vaccination was carried out against poliomyelitis, measles and rubella in girls 11-12, besides immunisation against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough. Following advice from the Department of Health, routine vaccination against smallpox was not carried out routinely because of the danger of complications, but was available on request.

Heaf testing was carried out on entry to secondary schools and B.C.G. vaccination (against Tuberculosis) was given to the negative reactors and the one degree positives.

Vaccination against influenza was offered to council staff and workmen and 61 accepted compared with 63 last year.

215 households were assisted by the provision of home helps during the year an increase of 20.

The Meals-on-Wheels service continues to supply 24 dinners twice a week, run by the W.R.V.S. The waiting list is now 12. We did not need to call on the Meals from Neighbours service during the year.

Four active luncheon clubs continued to be held for pensioners. Those at the New Shildon and Old Shildon Clubs cater for 20 each, weekly and those at Rowan Avenue and Garbutt Close Community Centres for 16 each, weekly. We could not run these without the help of the wardens and other voluntary workers, for whose help we are very grateful.

The Red Cross continue to administer the Chiropody clinic very efficiently. The County Chiropodist who attends gave 1,386 treatments to 349 persons in 143 sessions.

During the year, 37 houses were built by the Council with State Assistance, 184 by the Development Corporation in Newton Aycliffe and 84 by private persons making a total of 305 for the year.

Work was commenced on the Community Centre and Old Persons Bungalows on the Adamson Street site during the year and the bungalows at Middridge were completed.

In October, the main sewer was connected to the Darlington Rural District Council Sewage Disposal Works and the Sewage Disposal Works in Shildon then ceased to be used.

Finally, I should like to thank the Council for their co-operation, my staff for their loyal services and members of all voluntary organisations for their willing hard work over the year.

## VITAL STATISTICS

### POPULATION

The Registrar General's figures for the Area at Mid 1972, show the resident population as 14,780, this being an increase of 210 in comparison with the previous year. The Comparability Factors for Shildon are:—

Births	1.01
Deaths	1.25

Live Births	Male	Female		
Number	118	106	=	224
Rate per 1,000 population				15.4 (standardised)
England and Wales				14.8

### Illegitimate Live Births (% of total Live Births):

	Male	Female		
Number	10	8	=	18
% of Total Live Births			=	8%
England and Wales			=	9%

### Still Births:

	Male	Female		
Number	—	2	=	2
Stillbirth Rate			=	9
England and Wales			=	12

### Infant Mortality Rates (deaths under one year):

	Male	Female		Total
Number	2	1	=	3

### Total Infant Deaths:

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births:	13
England and Wales	17
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births:	15
England and Wales	17
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births:	Nil
England and Wales	21

**Neonatal Mortality Rate** (deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births): 13

England and Wales 12

**Early Neonatal Mortality Rate** (deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births): 13

England and Wales 10

**Perinatal Mortality Rate** (still births and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births): 22

England and Wales 22

**Maternal Mortality** (including abortion):

Number of Deaths: Nil

**Death Rate:**

Shildon Area: ... .. 14.9 (standardised) per 1,000 population

England and Wales ... .. 12.1 „ „

Deaths in Shildon Area, as per Returns to the Medical Officer of Health ... .. 68

Deaths of Shildon Residents outside the area ... 108

**SUMMARY OF STATISTICS**

	Death Rate per 1,000 pop'n	Inf. Mort. Rate per 1,000 Live Births	Still Birth Rate per 1,000 Live and Still Births	Birth Rate per 1,000 pop'n
Country Average (England & Wales) ...	12.1	17	12	14.8
Shildon (Crude) ... ..	11.9	13	9	15.2
(Standardised) ...	14.9			15.4



**Births in excess of Deaths:**

1952	...	...	58	1962	...	...	104
1953	...	...	64	1963	...	...	58
1954	...	...	61	1964	...	...	74
1955	...	...	27	1965	...	...	102
1956	...	...	71	1966	...	...	63
1957	...	...	50	1967	...	...	43
1958	...	...	98	1968	...	...	62
1959	...	...	74	1969	...	...	27
1960	...	...	34	1970	...	...	31
1961	...	...	101	1971	...	...	54
				1972	...	...	48

**Population Changes:**

1957	...	...	...	...	13,960
1958	...	...	...	...	13,920
1959	...	...	...	...	13,910
1960	...	...	...	...	13,920
1961	...	...	...	...	14,070
1962	...	...	...	...	14,130
1963	...	...	...	...	14,020
1964	...	...	...	...	13,940
1965	...	...	...	...	13,910
1966	...	...	...	...	13,890
1967	...	...	...	...	13,820
1968	...	...	...	...	13,790
1969	...	...	...	...	13,660
1970	...	...	...	...	13,770
1971	...	...	...	...	14,570
1972	...	...	...	...	14,780

**Age Groups of Deaths in Shildon:**

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	Over 90	Total
—	1	—	—	2	13	12	26	12	2	68

**Age Groups of Deaths Outside the Area:**

Under 1 yr.	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-60	60-70	70-80	80-90	Over 90	Total
3	1	—	1	4	15	30	37	16	1	108

Cause of Death				Male	Female
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	...	...		2	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus	...	...		—	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	...	5	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	...	...	...	4	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...		5	—
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	...	...	...	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	...	—	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	...	...	...	1	—
Leukaemia	...	...	...	1	—
Other Malignant Neoplasms	...	...	...	1	2
Diabetes Mellitus	...	...	...	2	3
Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	...	...	...	—	1
Other Diseases of Blood, etc.	...	...	...	—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System	...	...		2	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	...	...		—	3
Hypertensive Disease	...	...	...	1	7
Ischaemic Heart Disease	...	...	...	27	24
Other Forms of Heart Disease	...	...	...	4	2
Cerebrovascular Disease	...	...	...	14	9
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	...	...		2	3
Influenza	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia	...	...	...	7	5
Bronchitis and Emphysema	...	...	...	8	3
Cirrhosis of Liver	...	...	...	1	—
Hyperplasia of Prostate	...	...	...	1	—
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	...	...		—	1
Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	...	...		—	1
Congenital Anomalies	...	...	...	—	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	...	...		2	1
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	...	...		1	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	...	...	...	—	1
All Other Accidents	...	...	...	1	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries...	...	...		1	2
Total all Causes				93	83

# INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Table of Cases as notified in the Whole District, set out in age groups (Civilians only)

Infectious Disease	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-61	61 & over	At all ages
Scarlet Fever	...	—	—	8	2	7	2	—	—	—	—	—	19
Diphtheria ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	2	4	2	1	3	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	27
Infective Jaundice ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Encephalitis	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TUBERCULOSIS:													
1. MALES:													
(a) Pulmonary ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
(b) Non Pulmonary	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. FEMALES:													
(a) Pulmonary ...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
(b) Non Pulmonary	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	2	4	2	9	5	23	2	—	1	—	—	1	49

## TUBERCULOSIS

The following cases remained on the Register at the end of the year:

	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total
Males ... ..	17	2	19
Females... ..	20	3	23
	<hr/> 37	<hr/> 5	<hr/> 42

The number of known Tuberculosis Cases in the District represents .29% of the population, the same as last year. Two cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during the year. Two males in the 55-64 age group died of Pulmonary Tuberculosis during the year.

## VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1972

### Immunisation against Diphtheria:—

176 No. — Primary Injections.

207 No. — Booster Injections.

### Whooping Cough:—

172 No. — Primary Injections.

11 No. — Booster Injections.

### Tetanus Injections:—

201 No. — Primary Injections.

209 No. — Booster Injections.

### Smallpox Vaccination:—

6 No. — Received Primary Vaccination.

2 No. — Re-vaccination.

### Poliomyelitis Vaccination:—

203 No. — Received Primary Injections.

174 No. — Received Booster Injections.

### Measles:—

246 No. — Received Primary Injections.

## VACCINATION RETURNS FOR THE YEAR 1972—*continued*

### Rubella:—

115 Girls. — Received Primary Injections.

### B.C.G. Vaccination:—

153 No. — Children were Heaf Tested.

6 No. — Children were Positive.

143 No. — Children were found to be Negative.

144 No. — Children were Vaccinated who were either negative or one degree positive.

Three children were not vaccinated for the following reasons:

2 No. — Had Rashes.

1 No. — Refusal.

## HOME HELP SERVICES

Number of cases receiving Home	
Help at 1.1.1972 ... ..	168 (an increase of 7)
New cases received during the year	47 (an increase of 13)
Total number of cases provided with	
help during year ... ..	215 (an increase of 20)
Cases terminated during the year ...	38 (an increase of 11)
Cases receiving service at 31.12.1972	177 (an increase of 9)

## CHIROPODY SERVICE

Number of sessions from 1.1.1972-	
31.12.1972 ... ..	143 (a decrease of 13)
Number of treatments ... ..	1,386 (a decrease of 17)
Number of aged persons treated ...	345 (an increase of 6)
Number of physically handicapped	
persons ... ..	4 (an increase of 1)

## PARTICULARS OF DISTRICT

Area (in acres) including Eldon, Old Eldon, Mid-	
dridge and Brusselton ... ..	5,051
No. of inhabited houses in the District of which 305	
were constructed during the year, 54 Condemned/	
Closed and Demolition Orders served under	
Section 17 of the Housing Act, 1957, the tenants	
of such houses demolished being rehoused by	
this Council ... ..	5,371
Sum represented by a Penny Rate ... ..	£3,200
Rateable Value ... ..	£342,997



## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Refuse Collection:

Domestic, Shop and Trade Refuse is collected throughout the area by regular weekly collection provided by the Council. The disposal of the refuse is done by controlled tipping at Sunnydale Tip in a most satisfactory manner.

### Drains and Sewerage:

The drains and sewers continue to work in a most satisfactory manner.

### Rodent Control:

Private businesses and dwelling houses were treated as and where necessary—a charge being made to properties other than dwelling house property, and complete sewer treatments were carried out during the year. A Rodent Operator is employed by the Council for the purpose of carrying out this work.

The public continue to report promptly to the Council Offices any infestation of rats and mice being found on their property.

No. of premises visited	No. of baits laid
218	764

The number of visits made during the year on Rat Infested premises during which treatment was carried out being ... 143

### Water Supply:

(a) The water supply to the area has been satisfactory in quantity and the quality was maintained during the year.

(b) No contamination of the supply occurred in the Shildon U.D.

(c) The total number of bacteriological samples taken in the Shildon area during 1972 was 10.

(d) There are 5,333 dwelling houses supplied. There are no houses on stand pipes.

(e) Natural fluoride is present in the water from 0.10 to 0.65 p.p.m.

**SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA—**  
*continued*

**Summary of Notices and work done in the Public Health Inspector's  
Department during the Year ended 1972.**

**1. Houses erected in area:**

	With State Assistance	Unaided	Total
(a) By Local Authority ... ..	37	—	37
(b) By any other Local Authority ... ..	184	—	184
(c) By private persons ... ..	—	84	84
	221	84	305

**2. Closing and Demolition of Houses.**

**(a) Formal Action:**

	No.
(i) No. of houses demolished during the year as a result of Clearance Schemes or other formal action ... ..	54
(ii) No. of houses Closed but not demolished as a result of formal action ... ..	5
(iii) No. of houses in Clearance Areas and individual unfit houses, demolition of which temporarily postponed ... ..	—
(iv) No. of houses in use as temporary accommodation ... ..	—

**(b) Informal Action:**

(i) No. of houses permanently discontinued as dwellings as a result of informal action and not included above ... ..	—
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## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA— *continued*

### 3. Reconditioning and Repair.

No. of houses made fit during year by procedure under Housing Acts (excluding temporary accommodation) or Public Health Acts:—

	No.
(a) As a result of informal action ... ..	6
(b) By owners as a result of statutory notice ...	—
(c) By Local Authority in default of owners ...	—

### 4.

#### (a) Water, Food and Drugs:

	No.
Samples of water taken for Analysis (water samples are taken by the Durham County Water Board) ... ..	10
Seizures of unwholesome food (voluntarily surrendered) ... .. 14 ton 7 cwt. 37 lbs.	
Samples of Food and Drugs taken for Analysis or found to be adulterated ... ..	—
Number of cases of food adulteration reported to this Council ... ..	5

#### (b) Precautions against Infectious Diseases:

Lots of Infectious Bedding Stoved or Destroyed	—
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	—

#### (c) General:

Number of new houses Erected during the year	37
Number of such houses Occupied during the year	37
Total number of Water Closets in the District ...	6,022
Total number of Ash-pit privies in District ...	3

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA— *continued*

### MILK RETAILERS

There are in the District 5 Retail Purveyors who are supplying either Pasteurised or Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised) Milk.

Regular samples are taken for testing by the Durham County Council Weights and Measures Department who have reported satisfactory results during the year.

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

Under the provisions of the Slaughterhouses Act, 1958, there are 2 slaughterhouses. The 2 slaughterhouses concerned are each attached to the retail shop for which they are used, and conform to the standards laid down under the provisions of the above Act, and have been duly licensed thereunder. All animals slaughtered have been subject to inspection which has amounted to 100%. A high standard of cleanliness has been maintained in the slaughterhouses throughout the period.

The slaughterhouses have also been inspected by the Officers of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and have been found satisfactory.

The 2 slaughterhouses concerned are as follows:—

- (1) J. N. Percival     ...     25, Church Street, Shildon.
- (2) J. Studham         ...     49, Church Street, Shildon.

The total number of animals inspected during the year being:—

				Animals Slaughtered
Cattle	...	...	...	43
Sheep	...	...	...	191
Pigs	...	...	...	30



## HOUSING

(a) The Council's Pre-War and Post-War Housing Programmes are summarised as follows:—

	No. Erected
1919 Act      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...	124
1930-1935 Act:	
North Eastern Housing Association, Newcastle. (Let by this Council)      ...      ...      ...      ...	100
	No. Erected
Post-War Permanent Housing      ...      ...      ...	1,313
Post-War Aged Persons Bungalows      ...      ...	267
Post-War Flats      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...	62
(30 available for Old Aged Persons)	
Communal Centres      ...      ...      ...      ...	2
Warden's Flats      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...	2

### (b) Re-Housing:

During the year ended 31st December, 1972, 93 houses were let to the following groups, in accordance with the Council's allocation of houses Scheme:

	No.
Points      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...	75
Individual Unfit Houses...      ...      ...      ...      ...	11
Key Workers      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...      ...	7
	<hr/>
	93
	<hr/>

(c) The number of dwellings built by the Council during the year was 37, 18 houses at York Square/Main Street and 13 houses and 6 bungalows at Middridge.

The allocation of Council houses is made on the following grounds:

(1) Clearance.

(2) Points.

together with serious medical cases. Special provisions being made to allocate bungalows to old people within the town itself.



## HOUSING—continued

Persons requiring housing accommodation, should complete the Housing Application Form, obtainable at the Council Offices, for inclusion on the following year's Housing List.

The number of applicants remaining on the Housing and Bungalow List at 31st December, 1972, were as follows:—

Applications	Type of dwelling required
99	Two and Three bedroom houses.
194	Bungalows.

### Housing Acts 1969 to 1971 (Standard and Improvement Grants).

The following is a summary of applications received under the provisions of the above Acts from 1st January—31st December, 1972:—

	Number of separate dwellings	
	Improve- ment Grant	Standard Grant
(a) Applications submitted to Council during year ... ..	96	39
(b) Number of Applications approved during year ... ..	85	38
(c) Applications rejected by Council during year ... ..	3	—
(d) Number of Improvements completed during year ... ..	49	44

Number of applications received during year for  
Qualification Certificates ... .. 4 No.

Number of Qualification Certificates issued during  
the year ... .. 3 No.

## CYCLING PROFICIENCY

During the year 1971/1972, the Shildon Accident Prevention Society team were runners up of the Durham Constabulary Cycling Competition. For the third time, a Cycling Attainment Test was held for children between the ages of 7 and 9 years and there were 26 passes.

During this period, 60 children were trained in cycling proficiency as follows:

(a) First year.	31 No.
(b) Second year.	15 No.
(c) Third year.	8 No.
(d) Fourth year.	4 No.
(e) Fifth year.	1 No.
(f) Sixth year.	—
(g) Seventh year.	1 No.
	<hr/>
	60 No.
	<hr/>

## FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Regular visits were paid to the factories in the area and, in general, conditions were found to be good.

I remain,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

ELAINE M. OSBORNE,

*Medical Officer of Health,  
Shildon Urban District Council.*









